

Message Text

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SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /078 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5178
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 01209

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY
SUBJECT: CYPRUS MISSING PERSONS: AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD MEETS
WITH ICRC

REF: A. GENEVA 00213; B. NICOSIA 0123

1. AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD HAS BEEN IN GENEVA TO CONSULT WITH
STATE DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR NIMETZ ON A VARIETY OF ISSUES
RELATING TO CYPRUS. DURING THESE DISCUSSIONS THERE WAS
AGREEMENT THAT EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH THE MISSING PERSONS
COMMITTEE SHOULD BE FURTHER PURSUED IN VIEW OF THE PROGRESS
THUS FAR ACHIEVED, AND DESPITE OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES,
INCLUDING THE ECEVIT OFFER TO MEET WITH KARAMANLIS.
COUNSELOR NIMETZ STATED THAT HE WOULD TAKE UP THE MATTER
AFTER HIS RETURN TO THE U.S. WITH, INTER ALIA, THE TURKISH
AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON AND BRYAN URQUHART AT THE UNITED
NATIONS. AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD FELT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO
MEET PERSONALLY WITH RESPONSIBLE RED CROSS (ICRC) OFFICIALS
HERE, TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS AND THE
ROLE TO BE PLAYED BY THE ICRC. ACCORDINGLY, ON EVENING OF
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JANUARY 25 THE AMBASSADOR, ACCOMPANIED BY MISSION'S HUMA-
NITARIAN AFFAIRS COUNSELOR, MET WITH ICRC OPERATIONS DIREC-
TOR JEAN-PIERRE HOCKE AND EUROPEAN ZONE DELEGATE SIMONIUS.
FOLLOWING ARE SALIENT POINTS OF THE MEETING.

2. AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD TOLD MR. HOCKE THAT DENKTASH FEELS
THAT IN ORDER FOR HIM TO MOVE FORWARD FROM THIS STAGE, TWO

REQUIREMENTS ARE FUNDAMENTAL:

A. A STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FROM THE NEW ECEVIT GOVERNMENT;

B. SOME DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE AS TO WHAT THE ICRC MEANS BY "CUSTOMARY PROCEDURES" IN TERMS OF DECISION MAKING.

AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD EXPLAINED WE CONSIDER THE BEST VEHICLE TO CONVEY THE LATTER WOULD BE THE ICRC'S LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE IN RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION BY THE TWO PARTIES THAT THE ICRC PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMITTEE. THE TEXT OF THE LETTER TO THE CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES, WHICH HAD BEEN AGREED UPON BETWEEN ICRC AND AMBASSADOR MEZVINSKY (PARA 5, REF A) WAS THEN EXAMINED FOR THIS PURPOSE. AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE LETTER WAS SOMEWHAT THIN IN PROVIDING ASSURANCES AGAINST TURKISH CONCERNS FOR ACCEPTANCE BY DENKTASH. IT WAS THEREFORE AGREED BY ICRC THAT A NEW PHRASE WOULD BE ADDED TO THE END OF PARAGRAPH 2 SO THAT THE LAST SENTENCE WOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:"THE ICRC REPRESENTATIVE WILL SEEK TO FACILITATE THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE IN A SPIRIT OF HUMANITARIAN COOPERATION, AND WILL WORK TO RESOLVE ANY DIFFERENCES THAT MAY ARISE BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES."

3. CRAWFORD ASKED, FOR HIS USE WITH THE PARTIES IN NICOSIA AND PARTICULARLY WITH DENKTASH, FOR AN ELABORATION FROM HOCKE AS TO WHAT ICRC "CUSTOMARY PROCEDURES" IN THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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TEXT WERE. HOCKE CONFIRMED ICRC'S VIEW THAT THIS IS NOT A COMPLICATED OR INVOLVED MATTER. ICRC SIMPLY DOES NOT ANTICIPATE THE NEED TO VOTE. HOCKE SAID THAT TWO TURKISH MISSION REPRESENTATIVES IN GENEVA ON DECEMBER 19 HAD BEEN GIVEN A FORMAL STATEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S POSITION ON THIS MATTER (BUT NOT A PROCES VERBAL, AS IT HAS BEEN TERMED ELSEWHERE) THAT ICRC WOULD SEEK TO BRIDGE DIFFERENCES, THAT THEY DID NOT THINK THAT DECISION MAKING WAS RELEVANT TO THEIR ROLE, AND THAT COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS IN THEIR JUDGEMENT SHOULD RESULT IN ONE OF THREE FINDINGS THAT OBIATED THE NEED FOR ANY DECISION MAKING, I.E., THE SUBJECT IS DEAD, ALIVE, OR THERE IS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE AND HE SHOULD THEREFORE CONTINUE TO BE CARRIED ON THE LISTS AS MISSING. IF ONE SIDE ATTEMPTS TO USE THE COMMITTEE FINDINGS TO PUBLICLY CONCLUDE THAT A PERSON IS ALIVE (OR DEAD), WITHOUT SUCH AGREEMENT BY THE COMMITTEE, THE ICRC MEMBER WOULD HAVE TO COME OUT WITH A STATEMENT THAT THE EVIDENCE EXAMINED BY THE COMMITTEE DID NOT SUPPORT THIS. AGAIN, HOCKE EMPHASIZED THAT HE DID NOT FORESEE A SITUATION IN WHICH VOTING WOULD ARISE.

4. IN VOICING APPRECIATION FOR AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD'S EXPO-

SITION OF THE BACKGROUND AND CURRENT STATE OF PLAY OF NEGOTIATIONS TO ESTABLISH THE COMMITTEE, HOCKE SAID THAT HE HAD EARLIER RECEIVED A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT IMPRESSION AS TO THE CURRENTLY INTRACTABLE PARTY FROM A CONVERSATION HE HAD RECENTLY HAD WITH BRYAN URQUHART. IN THIS MEETING, URQUHART LEFT WITH HOCKE THE UNDERSTANDING, BASED ON KYPRIANOU'S EXTENDED REMARKS DURING THE JANUARY 15 LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH WALDHEIM (REF B, PARA 2) THAT THE PROBLEM OF OBSTRUCTING FORWARD MOVEMENT LAY MORE WITH THE GREEKS THAN WITH THE TURKS. THE AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT KYPRIANOU'S

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REMARKS ON THAT OCCASION WERE INDEED "RETROGRESSIVE" BUT THAT WE FELT HIS PROBLEM WAS DEALT WITH IN U.S. SUPPLEMENTARY PARAGRAPH 1, AND THAT WE HAD ASSURANCES WHICH WE HOPED WERE STILL FIRM THAT THE GREEK CYPRIOTS WOULD BUY THE PACKAGE AS IT NOW STANDS, PROVIDED THE TURKS WILL AGREE.

5. HOCKE SAID THAT IF IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IN DEALING WITH DENKTASH, HIS OWN OPINION COULD BE GIVEN THAT EXHUMATION ITSELF IS A FALSE ISSUE SIMPLY BECAUSE, UNLIKE THE CASE OF UNITED STATES PERSONNEL MISSING IN VIETNAM, FOR INSTANCE, THERE ARE FEW IF ANY RECORDS OR POSITIVE INDICATIONS, SUCH AS DOG TAGS, DENTAL RECORDS, OR OTHER MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION, AMONG THE DEAD ON EITHER SIDE IN CYPRUS. THEREFORE, IN HIS JUDGEMENT CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE AS TO WHO HAS DIED AND UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES, WOULD UNLIKELY BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE FROM EXHUMATION IN THE VAST MAJORITY OF CASES.

6. ON THE MATTER OF GEOGRAPHIC CONFINED OF THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION, HOCKE STATED THAT IT WAS LIMITED TO CYPRUS. SHOULD THE TRAIL OF THE COMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATION
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LEAD IT TO ANOTHER COUNTRY, THE ICRC MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE, BUT NOT THE COMMITTEE ITSELF, WOULD TRANSMIT THE RELEVANT FACTS BACK TO GENEVA WITH A REQUEST FOR THE DESIRED INFORMATION. ICRC GENEVA WOULD THEN SEND AN APPROPRIATE LETTER TO THE COUNTRY CONCERNED (FOR INSTANCE, TURKEY) AND REQUIRE A REPLY, WHICH WOULD BE PASSED BACK THROUGH THE SAME CHANNEL TO THE COMMITTEE. BUT THE COMMITTEE ITSELF WOULD HAVE NO POWERS TO OPERATE OUTSIDE CYPRUS. AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD STATED THAT THE UNITED STATES ENVISIONED THAT THIS ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM WOULD BE DEALT WITH IN OUR PACKAGE IN THAT, AFTER THE ICRC ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EFFORT, IT WOULD BE WELCOMED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL, FOLLOWING WHICH A LETTER FROM TURKEY TO WALDHEIM WOULD STATE THAT IT TOO WOULD HOPE TO FACILITATE THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE.

7. IN THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION, AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD HAD PRAISED THE EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE OF THE ICRC CHIEF OF MISSION IN CYPRUS, GEORGE HOFFMAN, FROM 1974 UNTIL HIS RECENT DEPARTURE. HE TERMED HOFFMAN A HIGHLY COMPETENT DIPLOMAT WHO WAS GREATLY RESPECTED BY BOTH SIDES. SEPARATELY, THE MISSION COUNSELOR INQUIRED WHETHER THE ICRC PARTICIPANTS ON THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE DRAWN FROM THE STAFF OF ITS TRACING AGENCY. HOCKE STATED THAT AT LEAST THE LEADER OF THE ICRC TEAM WOULD HAVE TO BE SOMEONE WITH STATURE AND DIPLOMATIC QUALIFICATIONS, ALTHOUGH HE WOULD PROBABLY BE GIVEN TECHNICAL SUPPORT BY ONE OR TWO PEOPLE FROM THE TRACING AGENCY. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD'S APPRAISAL OF MR. HOFFMAN'S PERFORMANCE, AND INDICATED THAT HOFFMAN WAS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE TYPE THEY HAVE UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR THIS ROLE.

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8. HOCKE WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE UNITED STATES' AND THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL'S EFFORTS WOULD CONTINUE TOWARD WHATEVER MIX WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL. HE WISHED US WELL AND CONFIRMED THAT ICRC WOULD BE PREPARED TO PLAY ANY ROLE IN WHICH IT WAS FELT IT COULD BE

WELL EMPLOYED. "IT IS OUR DUTY".
VANDEN HEUVEL

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